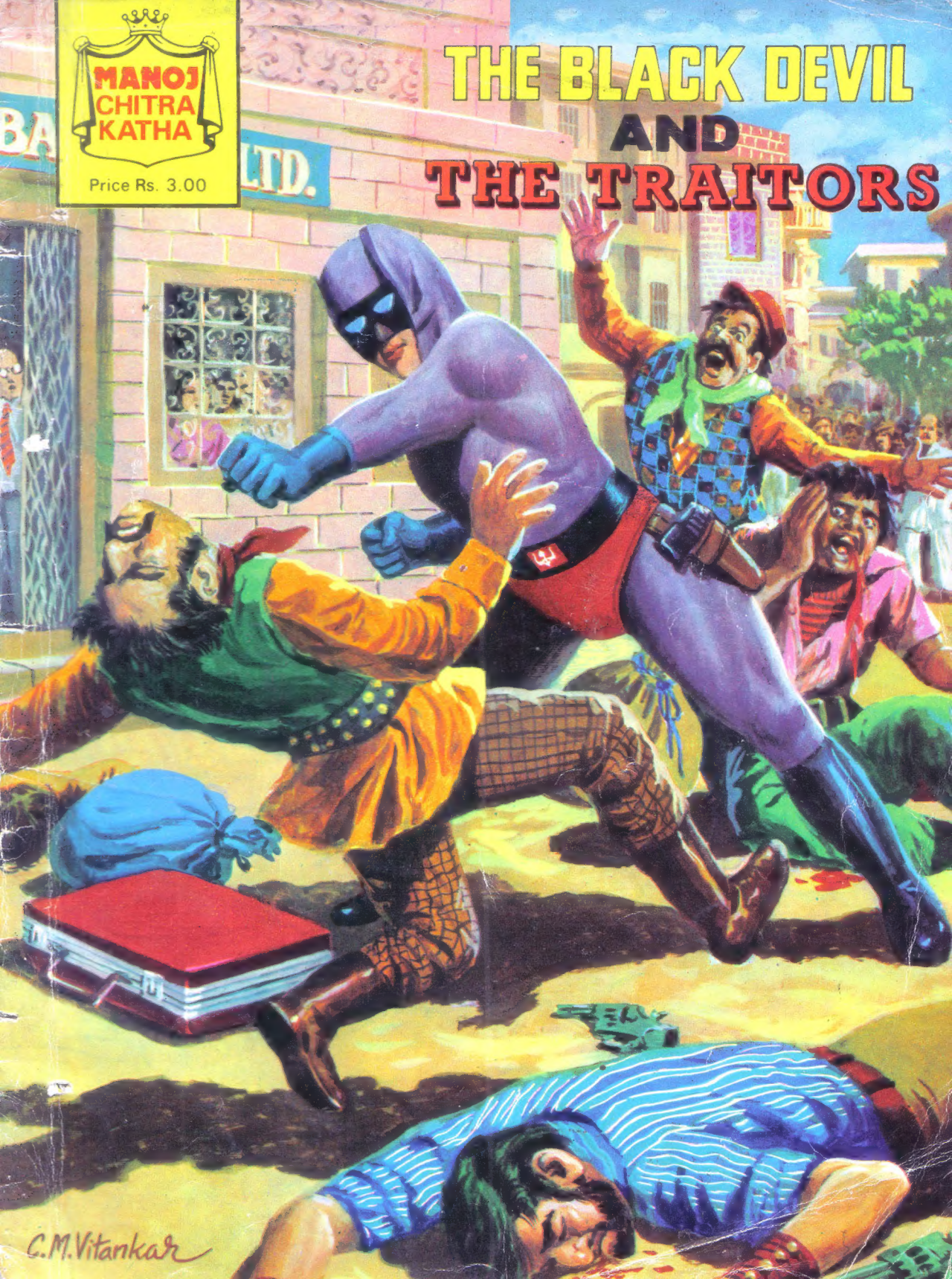
MANOJ
CHITRA
KATHA
Price Rs. 3.00
THE BLACK DEVIL
AND
THE TRAITORS
C.M.Vitankar

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- काला प्रेत और देश के दुश्मन
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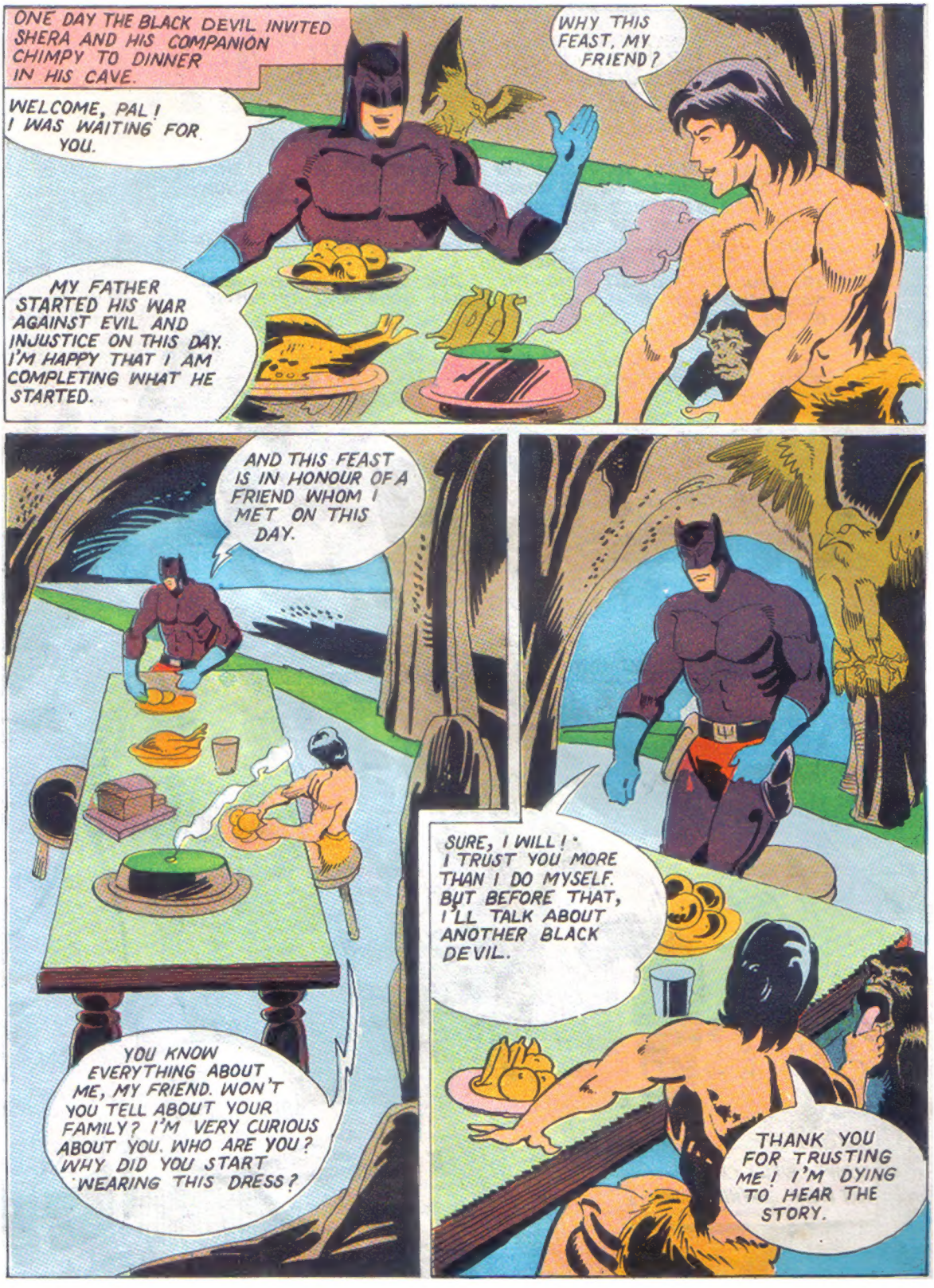
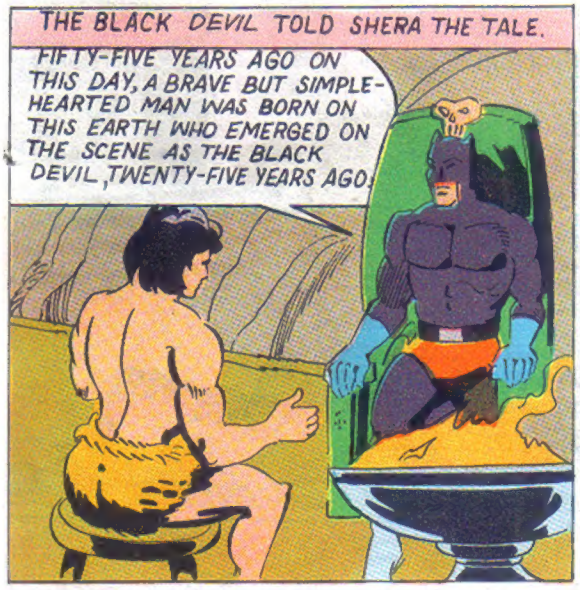
THE BLACK DEVIL AND THE TRAITORS

OUR DEAR READERS HAVE READ THE EXPLOITS OF MAHABALI SHERA AND THE BLACK DEVIL IN MANOJ CHITRA KATHA. YOU KNOW WHO SHERA'S FATHER WAS AND HOW SHERA BECAME THE UNCROWNED KING OF THE JUNGLE. YOU MUST BE EAGER TO KNOW ABOUT THE BLACK DEVIL. WE ARE PRESENTING A LEAF FROM THE LIFE OF THE BLACK DEVIL IN THIS VOLUME. HERE YOU WOULD FIND OUT WHO THE BLACK DEVIL WAS, HIS REAL NAME AND WHY HE IS A FRIEND OF THE GOOD AND AN ENEMY OF THE WICKED.

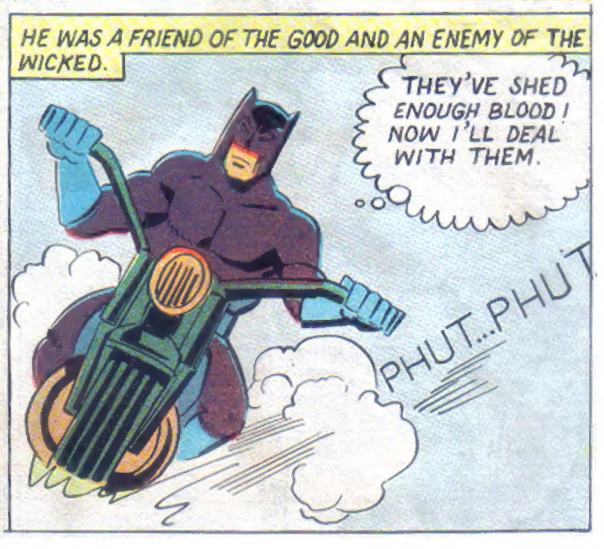
SCRIPT: BIMAL CHATERJEE
ART WORK: SURENDRA 'SUMAN'
COVER : DIPANKAR BARUAH


ONE DAY THE BLACK DEVIL INVITED SHERA AND HIS COMPANION CHIMPY TO DINNER IN HIS CAVE.
WELCOME, PAL! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
WHY THIS FEAST, MY FRIEND?
MY FATHER STARTED HIS WAR AGAINST EVIL AND INJUSTICE ON THIS DAY. I'M HAPPY THAT I AM COMPLETING WHAT HE STARTED.
AND THIS FEAST IS IN HONOUR OF A FRIEND WHOM I MET ON THIS DAY.
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, MY FRIEND. WON'T YOU TELL ABOUT YOUR FAMILY? I'M VERY CURIOUS ABOUT YOU. WHO ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU START WEARING THIS DRESS?
SURE, I WILL! I TRUST YOU MORE THAN I DO MYSELF. BUT BEFORE THAT, I'LL TALK ABOUT ANOTHER BLACK DEVIL.
THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME! I'M DYING TO HEAR THE STORY.

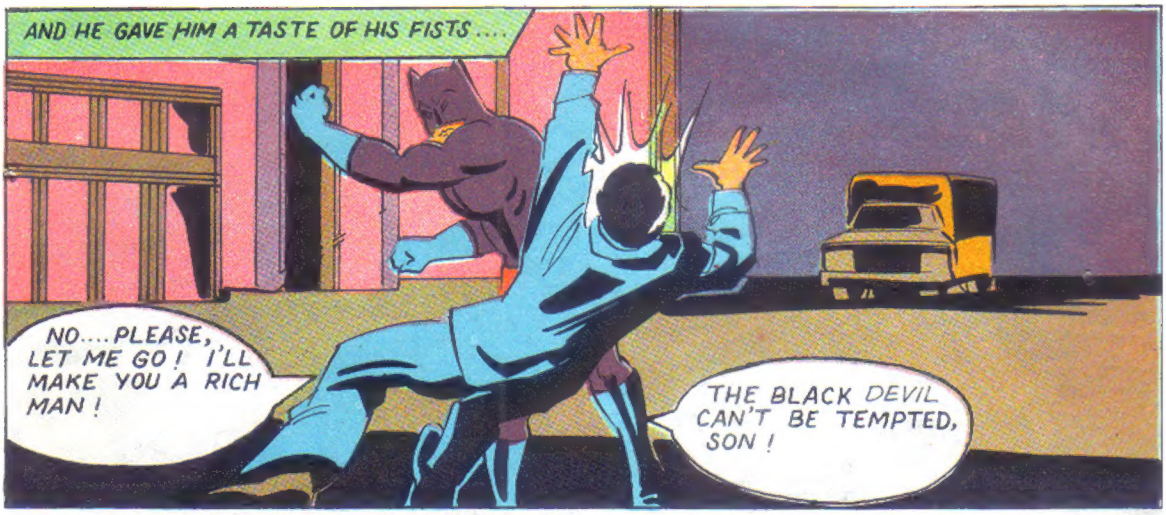

THE BLACK DEVIL TOLD SHERA THE TALE.
FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO ON THIS DAY, A BRAVE BUT SIMPLE-HEARTED MAN WAS BORN ON THIS EARTH WHO EMERGED ON THE SCENE AS THE BLACK DEVIL, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

GET INTO THE CAR! HURRY!
A..H.H.
OH! BANK ROBBERS!

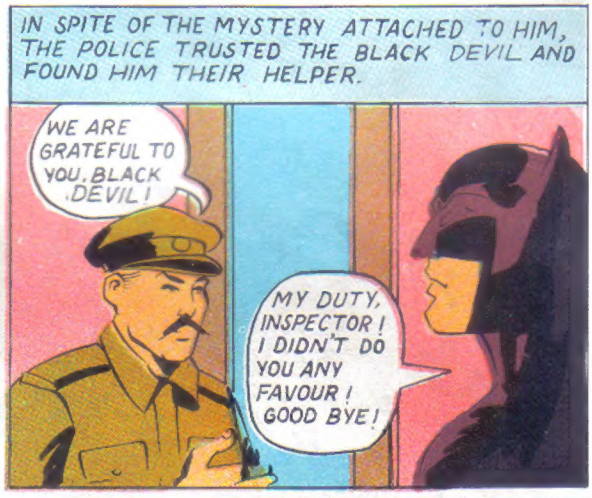
THE BLACK DEVIL WAS A BRAVE PATRIOT.
JAYA BANK (P) LTD.
OH, BANK ROBBERS!
NOW DON'T COME NEARER!
LET'S SCOOT BOYS!


HE WAS A FRIEND OF THE GOOD AND AN ENEMY OF THE WICKED.
THEY'VE SHED ENOUGH BLOOD! NOW I'LL DEAL WITH THEM.
PHUT...PHUT

YOU SKUNKS! YOU CAN'T REMAIN FREE SO LONG AS THE BLACK DEVIL IS HERE!
AND THEN...
OH, MY GOD!
A-AHHH!
THE BLACK DEVIL! WHERE DID HE SPRING FROM?
AAH!
I'M DONE FOR!
A-A-A-E-E-E-E!
THE ROBBERS' BOSS TRIED TO FIRE AT THE BLACK DEVIL BUT HE WAS TOO SLOW.....
UGH!
WHAT'S THE HURRY, PAL?


AND HE GAVE HIM A TASTE OF HIS FISTS ....
NO.... PLEASE, LET ME GO! I'LL MAKE YOU A RICH MAN!
THE BLACK DEVIL CAN'T BE TEMPTED, SON!

BY THAT TIME THE POLICE REACHED THERE.
HERE YOU ARE, INSPECTOR! THEY ROBBED A BANK!
HANDCUFF THEM, FELLOWS!


IN SPITE OF THE MYSTERY ATTACHED TO HIM, THE POLICE TRUSTED THE BLACK DEVIL AND FOUND HIM THEIR HELPER.
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, BLACK DEVIL!
MY DUTY, INSPECTOR! I DIDN'T DO YOU ANY FAVOUR! GOOD BYE!

HE HELPED THE POLICE TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY.
HELLO! WHO'S IT CALLING? OH, THE BLACK DEVIL! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

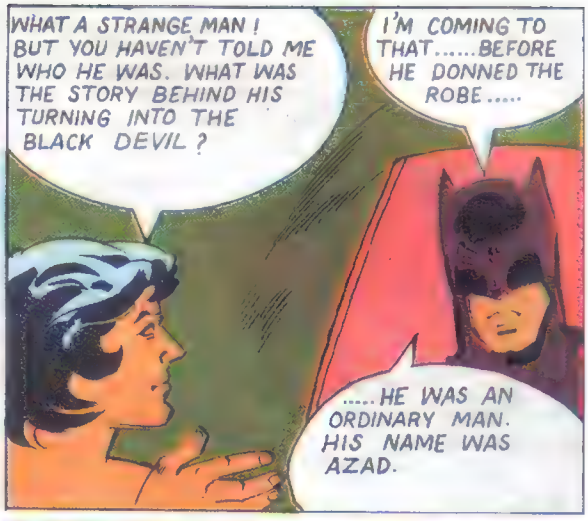
I'VE COME TO KNOW, INSPECTOR, THAT SOME SMUGGLERS ARE UNLOADING THEIR GOODS AT THE EAST COAST. I HOPE YOU WILL BE THERE WITH YOUR FORCE TO WELCOME THEM.
SURE!

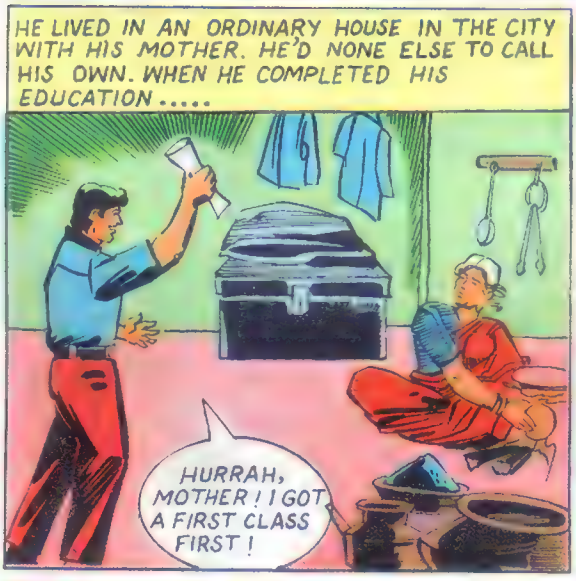
THAT NIGHT..
HURRY UP BOYS! TOO DANGEROUS TO TARRY!
THE POLICE REACHED THE SPOT..
THE BLACK DEVIL WAS RIGHT! THIS IS THE TIME TO NAB THEM.
DROP IT! DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY!
OH GOD! THE POLICE!
RUN!
THE BOSS OF THE OUTFIT TRIED TO GET AWAY, BUT..
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO? JAIL IS THE ONLY PLACE FOR YOU.
HOLD HIM INSPECTOR! WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY.
THANK YOU BLACK DEVIL! HE'S BEEN ABSCONDING. WAS WANTED IN MANY SERIOUS CRIMES. SMUGGLING FOREIGN LIQUOR'S HIS FORTE.

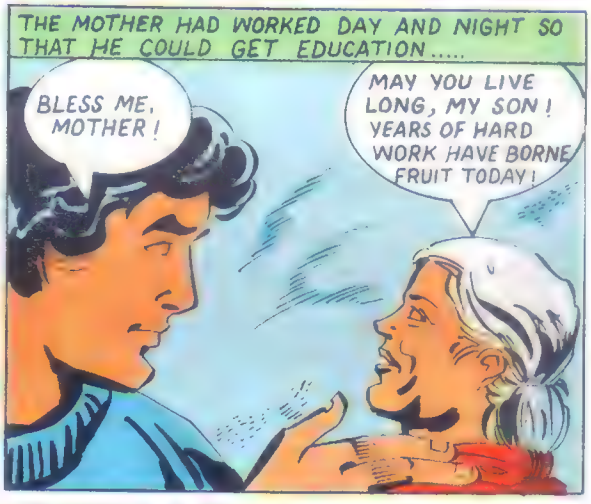
ON MANY OCCASIONS...
HAVILDAR, GET YOUR MEN READY FOR A RAID! MUST GO TO THE MIDNIGHT CLUB. THE BLACK DEVIL SAYS IT'S A GAMBLING DEN!
YES, SIR!
IN A SECRET CELLAR OF THE MIDNIGHT CLUB.
HERE'S MY BID!
SHOW!
ENOUGH! I'M CLEANED OUT!
THE BLACK DEVIL PRECEDED THE POLICE.
WHAT'S THE WAY TO THE SECRET CELLAR?
OH, MY GOD! THE BLACK DEVIL!
I'LL TELL YOU!
THE NEXT MOMENT THE BLACK DEVIL WAS IN THE SECRET CELLAR.
OH, MY GOD! THE BLACK DEVIL IS HERE!
NOW BOYS! NOBODY'S TO MOVE TILL THE POLICE GETS HERE!
OH! THE DEVIL! NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM HIM!
THE OWNER OF THE CLUB CAME WITH HIS GOONS.
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! FINISH HIM OFF!
HM, SO I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE THUGS!
THE NEXT MOMENT..
AAH!
UGH!
THUMP!

BUT NONE COULD STAND AGAINST THE STEEL FISTS AND KICKING HEALS OF THE BLACK DEVIL.
FIGHT HIM, YOU COWARDS!
OH MY TUMMY'S BURST!
I'M DONE FOR!
TAKE THAT! YOU'LL REMEMBER MY FISTS AND MY KICKS FOR EVER!
AND THEN THE BLACK DEVIL TURNED TO THE OWNER OF THE CLUB....
NOW IT IS YOUR TURN, YOU GANGLORD! TAKE THAT!
IN THE MEANTIME, THE POLICE REACHED THERE...
DON'T MOVE ANYONE OF YOU! ARREST THEM ALL, BOYS!
ALL OF THEM WERE NABBED..
CAME RIGHT ON TIME, INSPECTOR! TAKE HIM!
THANKS A MILLION, BLACK DEVIL! YOU'VE DONE A FAVOUR TO THE NATION BY HAVING THESE MEN ARRESTED. IN THE NAME OF GAMBLING THEY USED TO EMPTY PEOPLES' POCKETS.

THE POLICE WERE EAGER TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK DEVIL, BUT...
BLACK DEVIL, WON'T YOU SHOW YOUR FACE? THE PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE IT. YOU'LL BE HONOURED.....
I DON'T HANKER AFTER FAME, INSPECTOR! ONLY WANT TO SERVE MY COUNTRY. I LOVE MY DUTY!


WHAT A STRANGE MAN! BUT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHO HE WAS. WHAT WAS THE STORY BEHIND HIS TURNING INTO THE BLACK DEVIL?
I'M COMING TO THAT.....BEFORE HE DONNED THE ROBE.....
.....HE WAS AN ORDINARY MAN. HIS NAME WAS AZAD.


HE LIVED IN AN ORDINARY HOUSE IN THE CITY WITH HIS MOTHER. HE'D NONE ELSE TO CALL HIS OWN. WHEN HE COMPLETED HIS EDUCATION.....
HURRAH, MOTHER! I GOT A FIRST CLASS FIRST!


THE MOTHER HAD WORKED DAY AND NIGHT SO THAT HE COULD GET EDUCATION.....
BLESS ME, MOTHER!
MAY YOU LIVE LONG, MY SON! YEARS OF HARD WORK HAVE BORNE FRUIT TODAY!

MY CHILD, I'M TIRED AND OLD. GET MARRIED AND BRING ME A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER-IN-LAW! RID ME OF THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES!
PATIENCE, MOTHER! THE MOMENT I GET A JOB, YOURS WILL BE DONE!

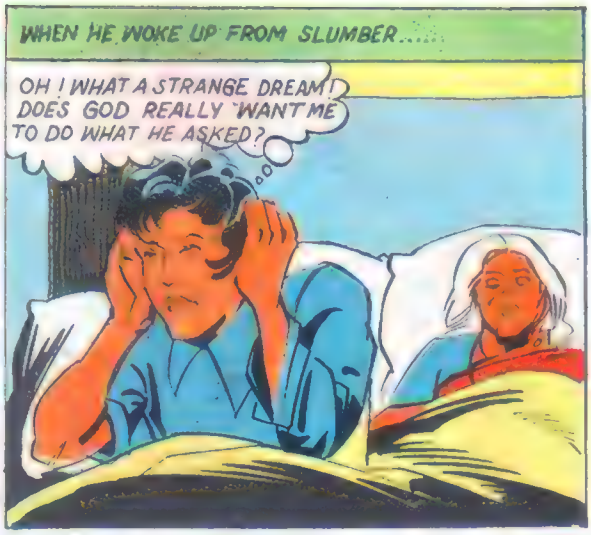
HE WENT OUT IN SEARCH OF A JOB .....
I CONCEDE ALL THAT, MR. AZAD! BUT YOU NEED THE RECOMMENDATION OF A V.I.P. IN ORDER TO GET A JOB, WHICH YOU LACK! SORRY! YOU CAN'T GET THIS ONE!
OH!

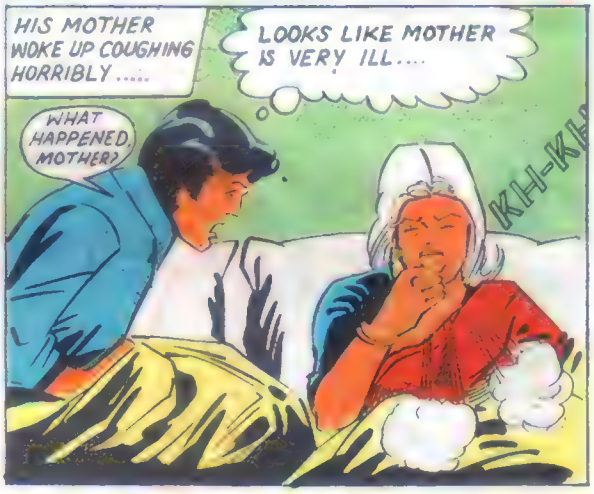
EXCUSE ME, FELLOW! I DON'T NEED AN EDUCATED AND HONEST MAN, BUT ONE WHO IS NOT ONLY CLEVER AND CUNNING, BUT CAN ALSO TELL LIES AND CAN CHEAT THE CLIENTS. OUR PROFIT COMES FROM ADULTERATION.
AND I DON'T NEED SUCH A JOB EITHER!
YOU PAY ME TEN THOUSAND RUPEES AND THE JOB IS YOURS! CAN'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING, YOU KNOW!
OPEN BRIBERY! LET ME TRY SOMEWHERE ELSE!
AT THE OTHER PLACE...
DEATH TO SETH RAM LAL!
DEATH TO....
RAM LAL!
ACCEPT OUR DEMANDS
WE'LL SET THE MILL ON FIRE!
ACCEPT OUR DEMANDS!
THE PLACE IS IN A TURMOIL; LOOKS DIFFICULT TO GET ANY WORK HERE!
BUT, LET'S TRY!
WHEN HE REACHED INSIDE....
THE SCOUNDREL MANOHAR HAS AGAIN ENGINEERED A STRIKE. HE'LL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH OR WE'LL BE RUINED!
??
I'LL REMOVE HIM PERMANENTLY, IF YOU TELL ME TO, SETHJI! AND TONIGHT!
YES, BUT ON THE QUIET. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW! HERE'S TEN THOUSAND; SHARE IT AMONGST YOURSELVES!
DON'T YOU WORRY, SETHJI!

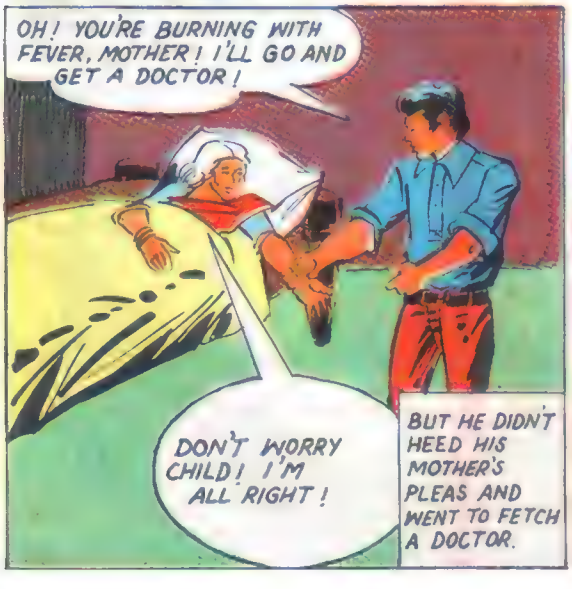
MURDERERS! THINK NOTHING OF KILLING A POOR MAN! LET ME MAKE A MOVE!
HE WENT FROM PILLAR TO POST, LOOKING FOR A JOB.....
SORRY, THERE'S NO VACANCY!
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T GET A JOB! DEGREES ARE MERE SCRAPS OF PAPER!
.....HE DIDN'T GET A JOB. TRICKERY, CHEATING, LAWLESSNESS, LIES, AND DISHONESTY RULED THE ROOST...
MAY THE GOVERNMENT PERISH!
WE WANT JUSTICE!
OH GOD! THERE'S NO PEACE ANYWHERE! HOW CAN AN HONEST MAN LIVE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES?
HE NOTICED THE SIGN-BOARD OF A COMPANY..
LET ME MAKE ONE LAST TRY!
HE WENT INSIDE, BUT SOMETHING CAUGHT HIS EYE...
HA....HA....NOW OUR SECRET WILL BE SAFE WITH YOU!
A-A-E-E!
THE MURDERER NOTICED HIM....
CATCH HIM, YOU FOOLS! HE'S SEEN ME!

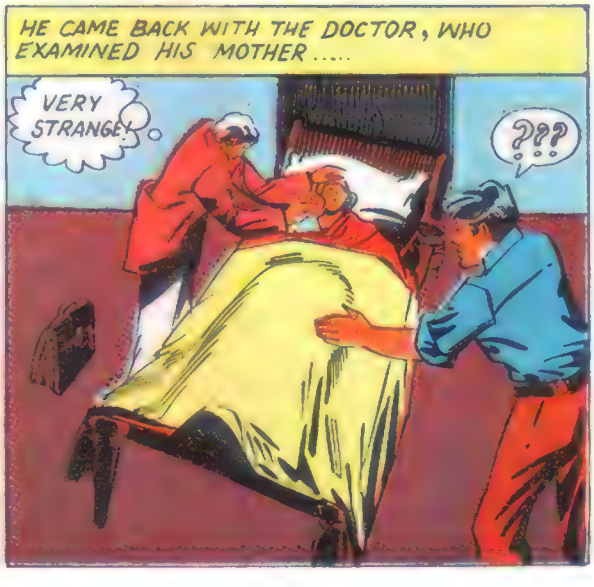
HE TURNED ABRUPTLY AND RAN FOR HIS LIFE.
SOMEHOW HE EVADED THE MURDERERS AND REACHED HOME.
DID YOU GET A JOB SON ?
KH-KH !
NO, MOTHER AND A MAN LIKE ME CAN'T GET A JOB EITHER !
KH-KH !
MOTHER ! YOU'RE ILL !
HAVE COURAGE MY SON ! YOU'LL GET A JOB ONE OF THESE DAYS. GOD MAY DELAY HIS BLESSINGS, BUT HE'S NOT UNJUST. A-A-H. KH-KH-KH!
NOTHING TO IT, MY SON ! JUST A LITTLE COUGH. DON'T YOU WORRY ! HAVE YOUR FOOD.
YES, MOTHER, I'M TERRIBLY HUNGRY !
BUT SIMPLE MAN THAT HE WAS, AZAD DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS MOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL.

ONE NIGHT WHILE HE WAS ASLEEP, GOD CAME TO AZAD IN HIS DREAM.....
GET UP, AZAD! YOUR LAND IS PASSING THROUGH A CRISIS AND TROUBLE. YOU'VE TO DEAL WITH THE WICKED WHO'RE TROUBLING THE NOBLE PEOPLE AND ARE DEPRIVING THEM OF PEACE. YOU'VE TO PULL THE COUNTRY OUT OF THIS MIRE, HAVE TO HELP THE POOR AND THE HELPLESS. UP AND AFTER THEM AS A LION PURSUES ITS PREY. RELEASE THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE LAND FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE SINNERS!


WHEN HE WOKE UP FROM SLUMBER.....
OH! WHAT A STRANGE DREAM! DOES GOD REALLY WANT ME TO DO WHAT HE ASKED?


HIS MOTHER WOKE UP COUGHING HORRIBLY.....
LOOKS LIKE MOTHER IS VERY ILL....
WHAT HAPPENED, MOTHER?
KH-KH

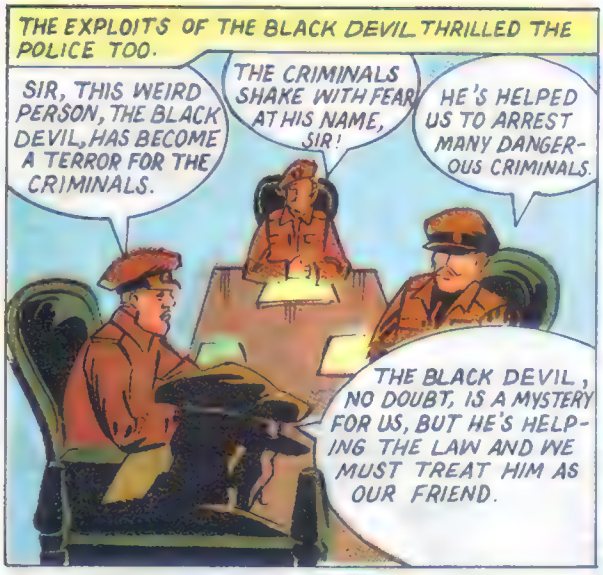

OH! YOU'RE BURNING WITH FEVER, MOTHER! I'LL GO AND GET A DOCTOR!
DON'T WORRY CHILD! I'M ALL RIGHT!
BUT HE DIDN'T HEED HIS MOTHER'S PLEAS AND WENT TO FETCH A DOCTOR.


HE CAME BACK WITH THE DOCTOR, WHO EXAMINED HIS MOTHER.....
VERY STRANGE!
???

WHAT'S HER PROBLEM, DOCTOR? WHAT MAKES HER COUGH ALL THE TIME?
YOUR MOTHER IS SUFFERING FROM T.B. IF IT'S NOT TREATED IN TIME, SHE MAY DIE!
BUT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, AZAD! HERE'S THE PRESCRIPTION. GIVE HER THE MEDICINES REGULARLY. AND REPORT TO ME AFTER THREE DAYS!
OH! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THE MEDICINES WOULD COST! I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY EITHER!
WITH HIS HEART BEATING NERVOUSLY, HE WENT TO A CHEMIST SHOP.....
THEY ARE COSTLY DRUGS. WOULD COST ABOUT TWO HUNDRED RUPEES.!
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH; ONLY FIFTEEN RUPEES. CAN YOU LET ME HAVE THEM ON CREDIT?
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A CHARITABLE DISPENSARY? RUN ALONG!
HE WENT BACK TO THE DOCTOR....
NOW YOU ARE MY LAST HOPE, DOCTOR! PLEASE SAVE MY MOTHER! I'LL REPAY EVERY PENNY THAT YOU SPEND ON HER, THE MOMENT I GET A JOB!
EVEN GOD NEEDS AN OFFERING, YOUNGMAN! AND I'M A MERE MORTAL. DON'T WASTE MY TIME. TAKE YOUR MOTHER TO A CHARITABLE HOSPITAL!
AZAD TOOK HIS MOTHER TO THE T.B. HOSPITAL....
SAVE MY MOTHER, DOCTOR! SHE'S VERY ILL!
KH-KH!
SORRY, THERE'S NO BED VACANT! AND THEN THERE ARE NO MEDICINES. THE PATIENTS HERE BUY THEIR OWN MEDICINES!

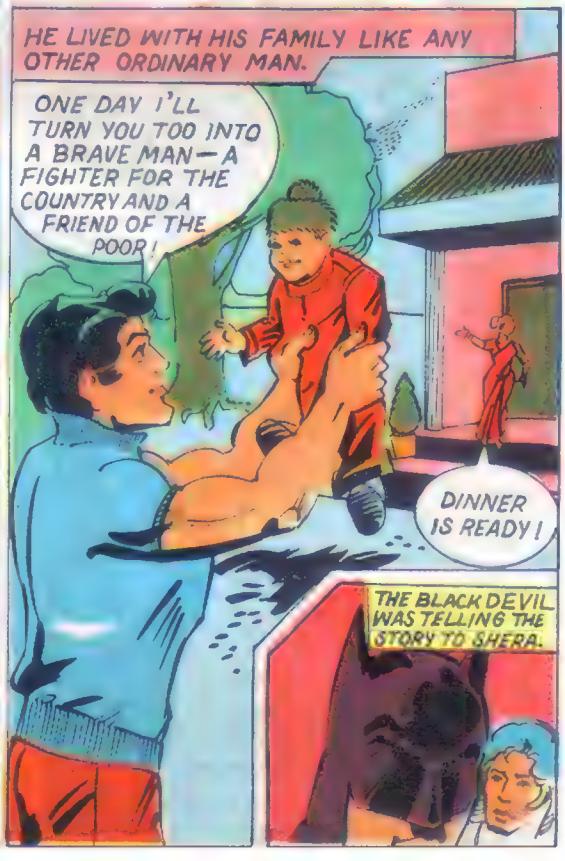
DESPAIR STARED HIM IN THE FACE....
DON'T WORRY MY CHILD! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
NOBODY GETS WELL WITHOUT MEDICINES, MOTHER!
KH-KH!
AFTER SOME DAYS HIS MOTHER WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE THE BED.
KH-KH... A-A-H!
OH GOD! WHAT'LL I DO? MOTHER'LL DIE FOR LACK OF MEDICINES. SHE'S NOW STARTED BLEEDING FROM THE MOUTH.
AND ONE DAY.....
OH MOTHER! YOU'VE LEFT ME ALONE AND HELPLESS!
MOTHER'S GONE TO HER MAKER! WHAT'S THE GOOD OF MY MEANINGLESS LIFE?
JUST THEN AZAD FELT AS IF HIS MOTHER HAD RISEN OUT OF THE FLAMING FUNERAL PYRE AND WAS TALKING TO HIM.....
NOW SON, DON'T BE DESOLATE! IT WON'T DO! YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SO THAT NO UNFORTUNATE MOTHER DIES WITHOUT MEDICAL AID. MY SOUL WILL FIND PEACE ONLY WHEN YOU DO THAT!
YES, MOTHER! I PROMISE TO DO AS YOU SAY!

THE VISION OF HIS MOTHER VANISHED AS SHE HEARD HIS PROMISE.
THE DREAM...PROBABLY GOD ALSO WANTS ME TO DO WHAT MOTHER ASKED.... I'LL HAVE TO BECOME SOMETHING SPECIAL WHO WILL STRIKE TERROR AMONG THE WICKED AND BRING HAPPINESS TO THE NOBLE OF THE LAND.
HE STITCHED A BLACK DRESS, JUST LIKE THE ONE I'M WEARING....
YES; THIS BLACK DRESS'LL DO. THE PEOPLE WILL NOW KNOWN ME AS THE BLACK DEVIL WHO'LL BE A FRIEND OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED BUT AN ENEMY OF THE WICKED OF THE WORLD.
AND AZAD TURNED INTO THE BLACK DEVIL, FRIEND OF THE POOR AND AN ENEMY OF THE WICKED. NOBODY KNEW FROM WHERE HE CAME AND WHERE HE WENT. HIS ONLY AIM IN LIFE WAS TO PUT AN END TO WICKEDNESS SO THAT THE COUNTRY COULD PROSPER AND THERE WAS PEACE. HE BECAME A TERROR IN THE WORLD OF THE CRIMINALS. AND THE GOOD, GENTLE PEOPLE HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.
SCOUNDREL! YOUR DAYS ARE OVER!
PARDON ME, BLACK DEVIL! A-A-H!
E-E-E-K! THE BLACK DEVIL!
THIS IS THE END OF BLACKMARKETING FOR YOU!
I DON'T PARDON THUGS!


THE EXPLOITS OF THE BLACK DEVIL THRILLED THE POLICE TOO.
SIR, THIS WEIRD PERSON, THE BLACK DEVIL, HAS BECOME A TERROR FOR THE CRIMINALS.
THE CRIMINALS SHAKE WITH FEAR AT HIS NAME, SIR!
HE'S HELPED US TO ARREST MANY DANGEROUS CRIMINALS.
THE BLACK DEVIL, NO DOUBT, IS A MYSTERY FOR US, BUT HE'S HELPING THE LAW AND WE MUST TREAT HIM AS OUR FRIEND.

THE POLICE COMMISSIONER CONTINUED.....
THE BLACK DEVIL IS AN ENEMY OF THE WICKED AND A GREAT PATRIOT. WHENEVER HE SENDS SOME INFORMATION, IT MUST BE ACTED UPON PROMPTLY. ALL POSSIBLE HELP SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HIM.
YES, SIR!
RIGHT YOU ARE, SIR!

AZAD WAS NOT ALONE NOW. HIS SMALL FAMILY INCLUDED HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND HIS ONLY SON, BHARAT. ROBBING THE ROBBERS, HE KEPT ONLY A PART OF THE BOOTY AND DISTRIBUTED THE REST AMONG THE POOR. WITH HIS SHARE HE BUILT A HOUSE.
LONG LIVE THE BLACK DEVIL!
MAY GOD PRESERVE YOU!
MAY YOU LIVE FOR EVER!


HE LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY LIKE ANY OTHER ORDINARY MAN.
ONE DAY I'LL TURN YOU TOO INTO A BRAVE MAN—A FIGHTER FOR THE COUNTRY AND A FRIEND OF THE POOR!
DINNER IS READY!
THE BLACK DEVIL WAS TELLING THE STORY TO SHERA.

TIME PASSED.... THE BLACK DEVIL WENT ON FIGHTING THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY BRINGING PEACE AND ONE NIGHT...
STOP! PLEASE HELP ME!
OH, SOME UNFORTUNATE MAN! MUST BE NEEDING HELP.
STOPPING HIS MOBIKE, THE BLACK DEVIL APPROACHED THE MAN...
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO ARE THE SCOUNDRELS WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
THERE IS NO TIME FOR DETAILS, STRANGER! I DONT KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT....
I MUST TRUST YOU IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF MY LIFE. LOOK, I AM A DETECTIVE WHO HAD BEEN AFTER A GANG OF MURDERERS KNOWN AS THE BLACK CROSS!
BLACK CROSS?
YES; THE BLACK CROSS. THEY NOT ONLY SEND SECRET INFORMATION TO THE ENEMIES OF OUR COUNTRY, BUT ARE ALSO SMUGGLERS AND MURDERES. THEY WERE SENDING A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET TO A FOREIGN POWER BUT I SUCCEEDED IN GETTING IT. THE BLACK CROSS MURDERERS WERE AFTER ME; THEY SHOT ME BUT I HAVE ESCAPED FROM THEIR CLUTCHES SOMEHOW.....
5
PULLING OUT A SMALL BOX FROM HIS POCKET THE WOUNDED MAN TOLD THE BLACK DEVIL...
THIS IS IT! IT'S A MICROFILM OF OUR MILITARY BASES.
HOW TERRIBLE!
NOW LOOK STRANGER! IF IT FALLS INTO ENEMY HANDS IT'LL DO IMMENSE HARM TO US. PLEASE TAKE IT TO MY CHIEF, MR. BHATNAGAR. IT'S MY LAST WISH. TELL HIM THAT AGENT ZERO DID HIS JOB. GOOD BYE, STRANGER! MY LAST SALUTE TO MY MOTHERLAND!

DON'T WORRY, FRIEND! THE BLACK DEVIL WILL NOT ONLY TAKE THE MICROFILM TO THE AUTHORITIES BUT WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH THE MURDERERS!
OH, SO YOU ARE THE BLACK DEVIL!
THEN I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I'M SURE THAT THE SECRET WILL NEVER REACH THE ENEMY!
AND WITH THESE WORDS, THE INJURED MAN — AGENT ZERO — DIED.
OH, A PATRIOT IS DEAD! AND I COULDN'T ASK HIM ABOUT THE BLACK CROSS!
BUT, HOW LONG WOULD IT BE HIDDEN FROM ME. I'LL FIND THEM EVEN IF THEY GO FATHOMS UNDERGROUND. BUT FIRST, I MUST FIND MR. BHATNAGAR AND HAND OVER TO HIM THE MICROFILM AGENT ZERO GAVE ME.
JUST THEN...
DANGER!
DON'T MOVE IF YOU LOVE LIFE!
HE WAS SURROUNDED BY THE THUGS...
THAT SPY IS DEAD!
BUT HE MUST HAVE THE FILM.
APPEAR TO BE BLACK CROSS MEN.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THEY WERE IN FACT THE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK CROSS.
BETTER HAND OVER THE FILM TO US!
SURE; BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE MURDER OF AGENT ZERO!
WHAT NONSENSE!
DANGEROUSLY, THE BLACK DEVIL ADVANCED TOWARDS THEM.
AND YOU MUST ALSO TELL ME WHO IS THE BOSS OF THE BLACK CROSS!
BUT BEFORE THAT YOU'LL DIE!
A-A-H!
YOU WON'T GET THE FILM THEN; HERE YOU ARE!
AND SUDDENLY THE BLACK DEVIL JUMPED TOWARDS HIS MOBIKE.
FIRE! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
TRY YOUR LUCK BOYS!

KICKING HIS MOBIKE TO LIFE, THE BLACK DEVIL RODE OVER HIS ATTACKERS.
YOU MUST TELL ME OR YOU'LL DIE BUSTERS !
OH, MY GOD!
I'M DONE FOR !
A-A-E-E-E
THE THUGS COULDN'T FACE HIS SUDDEN ATTACK.
I'M DONE FOR !
UGH!
NOW YOU GET A TASTE OF BLACK DEVIL'S FISTS !
AFTER SOME TIME..
TELL ME WHO'S BLACK CROSS ? AND WHERE'S HIS HIDE-OUT.?
AAH!
A GOOD OPPORTUNITY; LET ME FINISH HIM OFF !
I DON'T KNOW. A-A-H!
BUT BEFORE THE BLACK DEVIL COULD EXTRACT ANY INFORMATION FROM HIM.....
ONE OF THE GOONS FIRED AT HIS BACK.

IN SPITE OF THE BULLET IN HIS BACK, THE BLACK DEVIL TOOK A FLYING LEAP AT THE MAN WHO HAD FIRED.
YOU WON'T ESCAPE, YOU SCOUNDREL!
DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS NOW! QUIETLY HAND OVER THE FILM!
BUT BY THIS TIME, THE REST OF THE THUGS WERE ALIVE TO THE DANGER.
I'M SURROUNDED NOW!
AND THE BLACK DEVIL TOLD THEM....
ALL RIGHT, I'M PREPARED TO HAND OVER THE FILM.
HURRY UP!
THAT MAKES SENSE!
THE THUGS COULDN'T DIVINE HIS INTENTIONS.
HERE'S THE LITTLE BOX WHICH CONTAINS THE FILM.
YES, THIS IS THE ONE. HAND IT OVER!
THE MOMENT THEY CAME NEAR HIM, HE JUMPED UPON THEM.
WE'RE TRICKED!
THE NEXT MOMENT THE BLACK DEVIL JUMPED ON HIS MOBIKE.
CATCH HIM, FOOLS! OR THE BOSS'LL SHOOT US ALL!
BEST TO RUN AWAY!

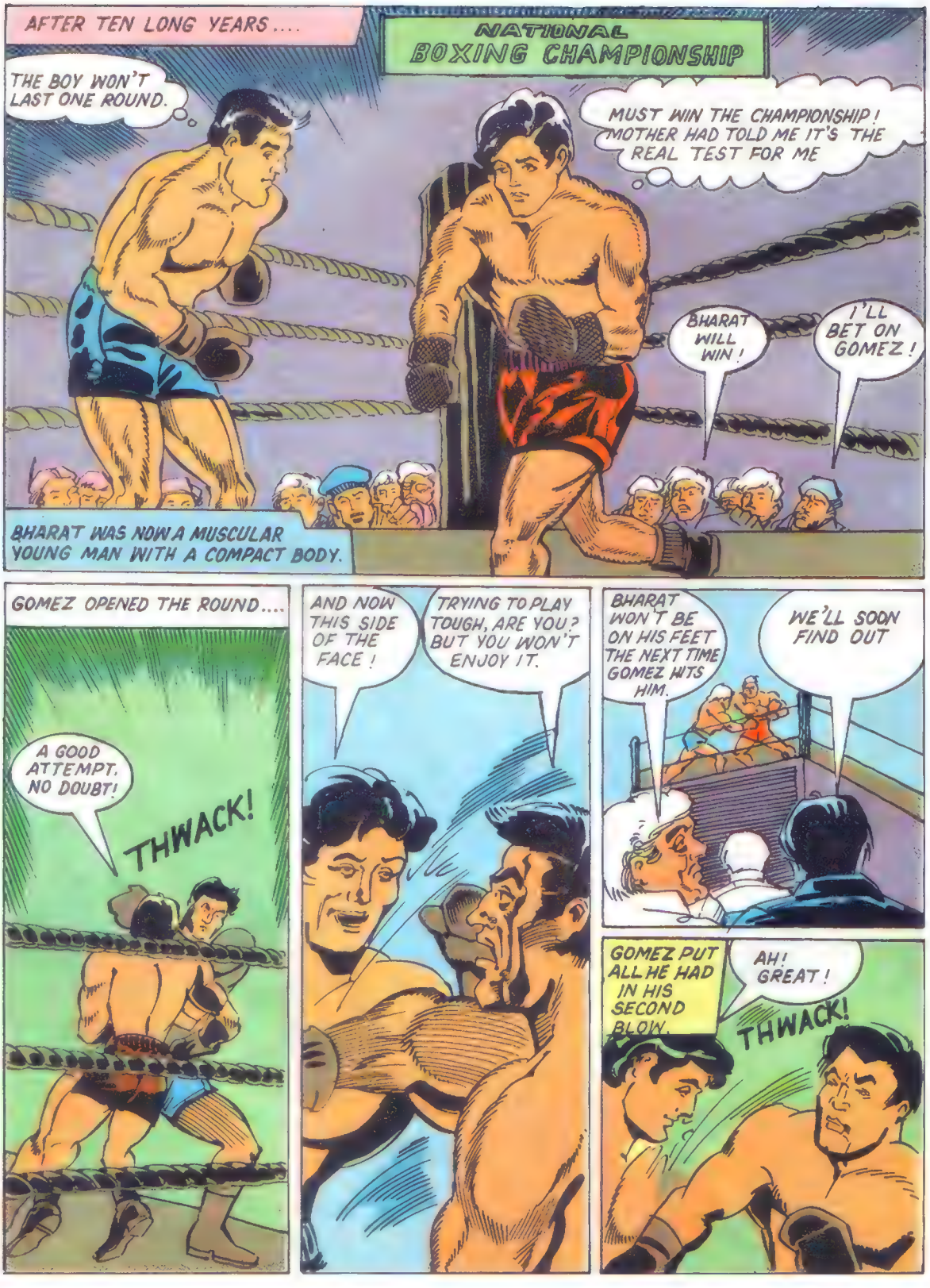
THE THUGS OF THE BLACK CROSS GANG FIRED A FUSILLADE AT THE BLACK DEVIL AS HE ESCAPED, SOME OF THE BULLETS ENTERING HIS BODY.
FIRST OF ALL, MUST REACH THE CHIEF OF AGENT ZERO, MR. BHATNAGAR.
O GOD! GIVE ME STRENGTH TO REACH THE AUTHORITIES SO THAT MY COUNTRY IS SAFE!
IN SPITE OF HIS INJURIES, THE BLACK GHOST SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING.
THIS IS THE ADDRESS!
R. BHATNAGAR
HALT! WHO ARE YOU?
MUST SEE MR. BHATNAGAR, IMMEDIATELY. I'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!
NOT LIKE THIS; YOU MUST IDENTIFY YOURSELF FIRST!
SORRY, FRIEND! I'VE NO TIME FOR INTRODUCTIONS!
PUTTING THE GUARD TO SLEEP WITH ONE BLOW, THE BLACK DEVIL ENTERED THE BUNGALOW AND FOUND MR BHATNAGAR SLEEPING.
MR. BHATNAGAR, WAKE UP!
SUDDENLY, FINDING A STRANGELY CLAD PERSON BEFORE HIS EYES, MR. BHATNAGAR WAS TAKEN ABACK.
WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M THE BLACK DEVIL.....MR. BHATNAGAR.....
OH, SO YOU ARE THE BLACK DEVIL!
I'M PRESSED FOR TIME, MR. BHATNAGAR. MY LIFE'S BLOOD IS OOZING OUT. PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY. YOUR MAN—AGENT ZERO—HAS BEEN KILLED BY THE THUGS. BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE HANDED OVER THIS FILM TO ME. IT HAS PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR SECRET MILITARY BASES. THE CRIMINAL BLACK CROSS WAS TRYING TO SEND IT TO THE ENEMIES OF OUR COUNTRY, BUT AGENT ZERO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE TO GET THIS FILM.
OH!

AND THE BLACK DEVIL PULLED OUT THE SMALL BOX FROM HIS POCKET
TAKE CHARGE OF THIS AND I'LL LEAVE!
STOP MY SON, YOU ARE BADLY INJURED!
NO USE, MR. BHATNAGAR! I KNOW DEATH WON'T WAIT VERY LONG. BUT BEFORE I DIE, I MUST REACH MY WIFE AND SON!
THE BLACK DEVIL DID NOT STOP WITH MR. BHATNAGAR.
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS MAN, BUT HOW BRAVE! MAY GOD PROTECT HIM!
NOW HE WANTED TO REACH HIS HOME AT THE EARLIEST.
BLACK SPOTS BEFORE THE EYES; GOD KNOWS WHETHER I'LL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE MY WIFE AND SON, BHARAT!
BUT GOD APPEARED TO BE READY TO GRANT HIS LAST WISH. HE REACHED HIS HOME, BUT HIS BREATHING WAS IRREGULAR NOW.
OH, WHAT HAPPENED, DARLING?
MY ENEMIES SUCCEEDED TODAY, RADHA!
HIS WIFE RADHA, WAS WAITING FOR HIM. SEEING HIM IN THAT CONDITION SHE WAS TERRIFIED.
I'LL RING UP THE DOCTOR!
NO USE RADHA, LET ME LIE IN MY OWN BED!

MY TIME'S COME RADHA BUT I'M HAPPY THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SOMETHING FOR MY COUNTRY.
NO; PLEASE DON'T SAY SO! NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.
WIVES OF THE BRAVE DON'T CRY SO, RADHA! THEY PROMISE TO HELP COMPLETE THEIR UNFINISHED WORK. LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ME RADHA! I WANT YOUR PROMISE!
TELL ME, DARLING! I PROMISE TO DO WHATEVER YOU ASK ME TO.
WHEN BHARAT GROWS UP, LET HIM FINISH WHAT I COULDN'T. IF HE ALSO DIES IN THE ATTEMPT, LET HIS WIFE ALSO MAKE A PROMISE THAT HIS SON WILL ALSO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK. LET THIS BE A FAMILY TRADITION...
..... TO BE CONTINUED TILL OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT EXCEL ALL OTHERS IN THE WORLD PROMISE ME RADHA.. PROMISE!
I PROMISE YOU MY LORD AND MASTER. I SWEAR BY ALL THAT IS HOLY THAT I'LL CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES!
A-A-HI
NOW I'LL DIE IN PEACE, RADHA! GOOD BYE MY DARLING!
NO..... FOR GOD'S SAKE, NO! ..... YOUR SON.....
AND BLACK DEVIL, A GREAT SON OF INDIA, DREW HIS LAST BREATH AFTER HE HAD TOLD HIS WIFE HIS LAST WISH.
DARLING! MY LORD AND MASTER!

WHY DID FATHER ENTER THE FLAMES MUMMY?
WHEN GOLD IS PUT INTO FIRE, MY SON, IT COMES OUT SHINING PURE! THAT'S WHY YOUR FATHER WILL GO TO GOD SHINING!
I'LL ALSO BECOME SHINING PURE AND GO TO GOD AND MEET PAPA. HE'LL BE HAPPY TO MEET ME THERE, WON'T HE MUMMY?
YES MY SON! BUT BEFORE THAT YOU MUST BECOME GOLD. A VALIANT FIGHTER LIKE YOUR FATHER!
I WILL, MUMMY; I WILL!
RADHA DID NOT FORGET THE PROMISE SHE HAD MADE TO HER HUSBAND. AS BHARAT STUDIED IN THE SCHOOL, SHE TRAINED HIM IN THE USE OF FIRE ARMS.
YES SON; LET'S SEE YOU HIT THE BULL'S EYE!
AND BHARAT WAS LEARNING FAST.
LOOK MUMMY! I'VE HIT THE BULL'S EYE!
WELL DONE, MY SON! YOU'RE A BRAVE ONE!
SLOWLY BHARAT GREW UP INTO A STRONGLY BUILT YOUNG MAN.

WELL DONE, SON! NOW WITH YOUR LEFT!
HE WAS ADEPT AT BOXING.
THWACK!
WELL DONE, CHILD!
NOBODY COULD BEAT HIM AT JUDO AND KARATE.
BLOCK ME IF YOU CAN MASTER!
BHARAT WILL SURELY COMPLETE THE UNFINISHED WORK OF HIS FATHER.
AAH!
HE WAS LEARNING MARTIAL ARTS FROM A COMPETENT MASTER.
RADHA MY CHILD! YOUR SON WILL BECOME A GREAT FIGHTER ONE DAY.
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, MASTER!
IN ADDITION TO MARTIAL ARTS, BHARAT WAS LEARNING TO DRIVE ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES.
AFTER SOME MONTHS, HE COULD NOT ONLY DRIVE, BUT WAS A COMPETENT FLIER TOO.


AFTER TEN LONG YEARS....
NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP
THE BOY WON'T LAST ONE ROUND.
MUST WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP! MOTHER HAD TOLD ME IT'S THE REAL TEST FOR ME
BHARAT WILL WIN!
I'LL BET ON GOMEZ!
BHARAT WAS NOW A MUSCULAR YOUNG MAN WITH A COMPACT BODY.
GOMEZ OPENED THE ROUND....
A GOOD ATTEMPT, NO DOUBT!
THWACK!
AND NOW THIS SIDE OF THE FACE!
TRYING TO PLAY TOUGH, ARE YOU? BUT YOU WON'T ENJOY IT.
BHARAT WON'T BE ON HIS FEET THE NEXT TIME GOMEZ HITS HIM.
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT
GOMEZ PUT ALL HE HAD IN HIS SECOND BLOW.
AH! GREAT!
THWACK!

CAN'T BELIEVE IT. LOOKS LIKE HE'S MADE OF STEEL.
NOW IT IS MY TURN, FRIEND! GET READY!
THE FIGHT WAS BECOMING INTERESTING..
OH, GOODY!
GOMEZ LOOKS AFRAID !
BHARAT HITS HIS ADVERSARY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
UGH!
AND THE SECOND BLOW....
OH MY GOD!
GET UP, FRIEND! DON'T LOSE HOPE!
PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED.
GOOD SHOW!
WHAT HAPPENED?
CAN'T BELIEVE IT. JUST TWO BLOWS!
NO....NO..... CAN'T BE A HUMAN!
GOMEZ WAS DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
OH, GOMEZ HAS FAINTED!
ALL INDIA CHAMPION AND DOWN SO EASILY!
CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

BHARAT RETURNED AFTER WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.
I'VE PASSED THE TEST, MOTHER! HERE'S THE PROOF, THE WINNER'S CUP!
I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON, BUT THE TRAINING YOU'VE GOT IS NOT FOR GETTING THESE PRIZES AND AWARDS! YOU HAVE TO STRIVE FOR THE BIG PRIZE FOR WHICH I'VE BEEN DREAMING ALL THESE YEARS!
JUST TELL ME WHAT IS TO BE DONE, MOTHER. I'LL SNATCH THAT PRIZE AND THROW IT AT YOUR FEET!
THAT PRIZE YOU WON'T GET IN A COMPETITION, SON!
HOW THEN DO I GET IT?
THE PRIZE I'M TALKING ABOUT IS TO BE KNOWN AS A PATRIOT AND THE PEOPLE YOU'VE TO FIGHT TO GET THAT PRIZE ARE KNOWN AS THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY.
I DON'T FOLLOW YOU, MOTHER!
COME WITH ME, SON, AND I'LL TELL YOU.
???

BHARAT WAS ASTONISHED WHEN HE SAW A SECRET PASSAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, MUMMY?
YOU'LL SOON KNOW MY SON!
RADHA DEVI LED BHARAT TO THE SECRET CELLAR.
ASTONISHING! YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT THIS CELLAR, MUMMY!
I WAS WAITING FOR THIS DAY, CHILD!
BHARAT SAW THE PICTURE ON THE WALL
WHOSE PICTURE IS THIS, MUMMY?
OF YOUR LATE FATHER!
BHARAT SHOUTED WITH ANGER AND ASTONISHMENT.
MY FATHER!.... WHAT DO YOU SAY, MUMMY? A MASKED DACOIT WAS MY FATHER!
YES SON! HE WORE THE MASK TO FIGHT THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY AND ALSO TO CONCEAL HIS IDENTITY.

BHARAT'S MOTHER RELATED TO HIM THE FULL STORY OF AZAD, ALIAS THE BLACK DEVIL.....

YOUR FATHER FELL A VICTIM TO THE BULLETS OF THE GOONS OF BLACK CROSS. YOUR FATHER'S LAST WISH WAS THAT YOU FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS, BE A BRAVE, KIND SOUL, HELPING THE POOR AND FIGHTING THE WICKED.

WHY DID YOU HIDE ALL THIS FROM ME, MOTHER? I WOULD'VE TORN THE RASCALS TO PIECES BY NOW.

KNOWING EVERYTHING BHARAT BECAME MAD WITH ANGER.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER HE IS STILL ALIVE. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND IT FOR YOURSELF.

DON'T WORRY MUMMY! IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, I'LL FIND HIM EVEN IF HE'S TWENTY FATHOMS UNDER THE GROUND.

BRAVO, MY SON! THAT'S WHAT I EXPECTED FROM YOU!

ANGER WON'T DO, MY SON; PATIENCE AND WISDOM ARE WHAT YOU NEED. YOU'LL DO GOOD TO THE COUNTRY AS YOU FINISH OFF THOSE MURDERERS. YOUR FATHER'S SOUL WON'T REST IN PEACE TILL YOU SUCCEED IN THAT.

I SWEAR BY YOU, MOTHER, I'LL FULFIL THE LAST WISH OF MY FATHER. NOW TELL ME ABOUT THE BLACK CROSS. I'M ITCHING FOR A FIGHT.

RADHA DEVI OPENED AN ALMIRAH.....

THIS IS THE DRESS YOUR FATHER USED TO WEAR. WHEN YOU WEAR IT YOU'LL BECOME THE BLACK DEVIL FOR THE PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE POLICE, 'CAUSE NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH. EVERYBODY WOULD THINK THAT THE BLACK DEVIL HAD VANISHED FOR SOME YEARS.

BHARAT PUT ON THE DRESS HIS FATHER USED TO WEAR.

YOU'RE RIGHT MOTHER!

BHARAT BECAME THE BLACK DEVIL SO THAT HE COULD AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND FIGHT THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY

I'LL AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH AND SHALL CONSIGN THE ENEMIES OF THE NATION TO HELL.

- COULD BHARAT AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH?
- WHO WAS BLACK CROSS, THE ENEMY OF THE COUNTRY?
- WHAT HAPPENED TO BHARAT'S MOTHER?

READ 'BLACK DEVIL THE PATRIOT' APPEARING IN THE NEXT SET OF COMICS BY MANOJ CHITRA KATHA.

RS. 3/- EACH : POSTAGE FREE FOR ORDERS OF COMPLETE SET

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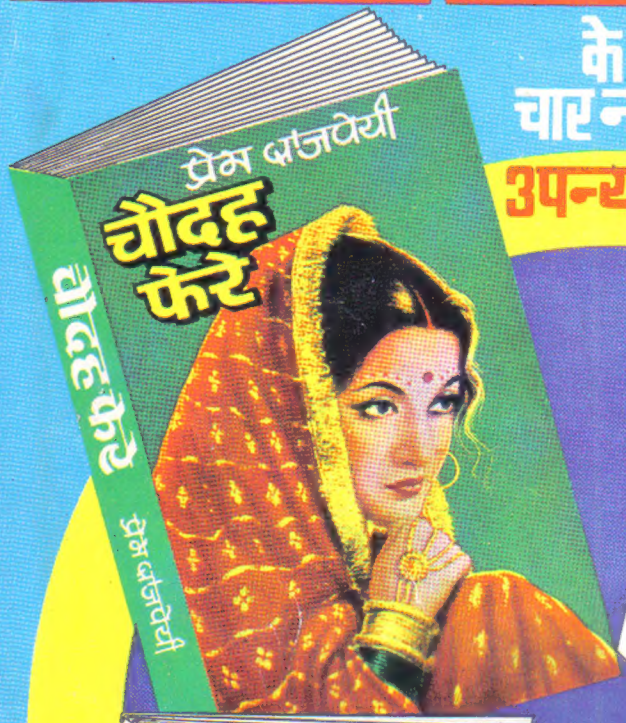

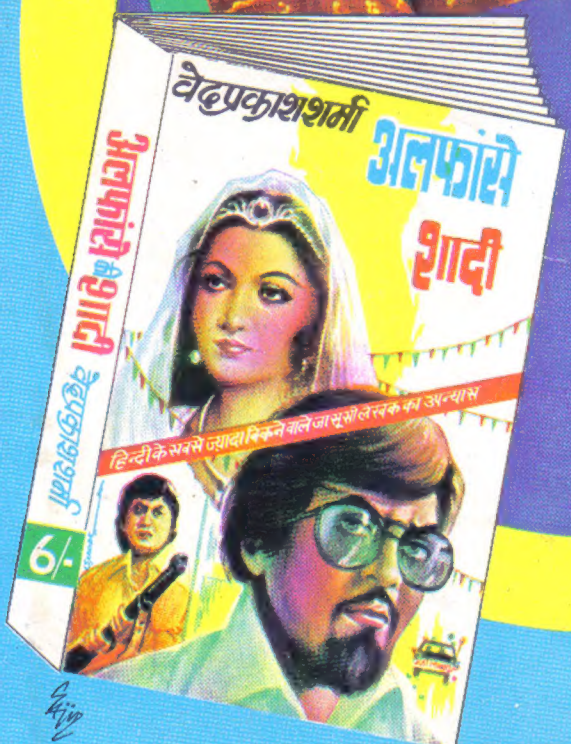

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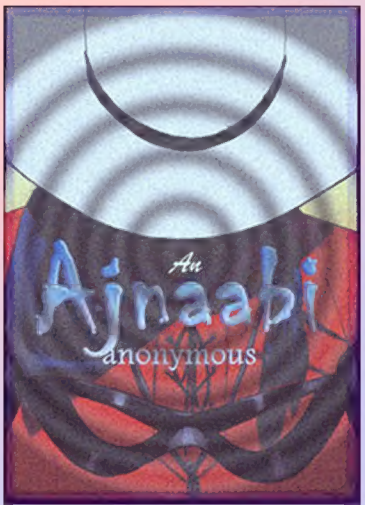

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